

The task to which Roger set himself on his return in spring, 1140, to the mainland, was that of giving his kingdom a definite and scientific frontier. From the first he had claimed every inch of the northern borders which Guiscard and Richard of Aversa—for he posed also as the heir of the latter—at tiny time, or with the shallowest right, had claimed. In those days, Guiscard's nephew Robert of Loritello had carried his uncle's banner as far as the Pescara, and had governed, almost as if he were the man of no lord, between that river and the Bifemo. Crossing the mountains, the frontier of the Regno would now run to the source of the Pescara, then to Lake Pucino, then to the upper GarigHano and down the course of that river, to divide the Patrimony and the King at Ceprano and Terracina. On the north-east, the itself would not satisfy Roger; lie looked to weld the farther as well as the nearer Abruzzi into the kingdom, and sought reasons in the attack made by Guiscard or his lieutenants upon the march of Permo, and the duchy of Spoleto, before 1078, Between Capuan and Papal lands the frontier too was vague; deep within the fron-

tier, the little Papal enclave of
Benevento broke
the unity of the Regno, The defining
of the
frontier must lead to war with the
Pope, but Roger
did not mean to end his reign as a
vassal of Rome,

In the spring of 1140, Alfonso was
sent across the
Pescara with a "great army; joined
later by Duke
Roger, the two began the subjection of
the Marsian